

Message Text

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ACTION AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-07 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 L-02 OPIC-01 PRS-01 DRC-01 OMB-01

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P R 291426Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 217

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1050

LIMDIS

ABIDJAN AND NAIROBI FOR GREGG

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: EFIN, ZA, US

SUBJECT: TAW

1. AFTER SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS AT STATE HOUSE
RECEPTION SATURDAY, MAY 25, WITH PRIME MINISTER CHONA,
MINHOME AFFAIRS MILNER, MINMINES AND INDUSTRY KASHITA
AND SECRETARY TO CABINET CHISANGA, AMBASSADOR
RELUCTANTLY CONCLUDES IT WOULD BE MISTAKE TO INTRODUCE
US OFFICIAL INTO HIGHLY POLITICIZED ATMOSPHERE SURROUNDING
TAW AT THIS TIME.

NEVERETHELESS, AMBASSADOR AND STAFF WOULD BE PLEASED
HAVE IN-HOUSE DISCUSSIONS LUSAKA WITH OPIC EXEC
VICE PRESIDENT GREGG, PARTICULARLY IF HE HAS NOT MET
UP WITH TOM WOOD IN NAIROBI AND RECEIVED CURRENT STATUS
REPORT.

2. MILNER CONFIDED PRESIDENT KAUNDA CURRENTLY SEIZED WITH
TAW PROBLEM. MILNER GUARDEDLY OPTIMISTIC OF FAVORABLE
SOLUTION. I MENTIONED OPIC OFFICIAL TRAVELING IN EAST
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AFRICA AND COULD BE BROUGHT TO LUSAKA IF GRZ CONSIDERATION

OF TAW CASE REQUIRED CLARIFICATION OF ROLE OF THAT FINANCING AGENCY AND OTHER US BANKING INTERESTS, ALTHOUGH I PERSONALLY CONCERNED LEST OFFICIAL US ENTRY AT THIS DELICATE MOMENT BE INTERPRETED AS UNNECESSARY INTERVENTION AND GIVE ANY OPPONENTS OPPORTUNITY TO USE SUCH A VISIT FOR FURTHER OBSTRUCTION AND DELAYING ENDS. MILNER FULLY AGREED AND URGED OFFICIAL VISIT NOT BE ENCOURAGED.

3. MAINZA CHONA WAS LIKE PERMANENT GLUE AT PRESIDENT'S SIDE AS HE MOVED THROUGH LARGE CROWD OF GUESTS AT STATE HOUSE RECEPTION. AFTER EXCHANGING GREETINGS HE SURPRISED ME BY DROPPING BACK TO RAISE TAW SUBJECT. HE SAID WE MUST MEET SOONEST "SO AS TO FIND CLEAN RPT CLEAN SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM." I EXPLAINED THAT MY CALLS TO HIS OFFICE FOLLOWING HIS CALL TO CHANCERY MAY 6 AND SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION WITH DCM HAD GONE UNANSWERED. THEN I GAVE PRIME MINISTER SAME LINE ON POSSIBILITY OF OPIC VISIT AS WITH MILNER. CHONA KEENLY ENTHUSIASTIC AND URGED I PROMOTE VISIT. SAID HE WOULD RECEIVE OFFICIAL PERSONALLY.

4. CHISANGA CONFIRMED CONTINGENCY COMMITTEE HAD AUTHORIZED PURCHASE OF TAW TRUCKS AND EQUIPMENT IN ZAMBIA AND SUGGESTED TOM WOOD SEE PETER SIWO OF MINTRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS TO ARRANGE DETAILS.

5. WOOD HAS NOT BEEN AVAILABLE TO BRIEF US ON CURRENT STATUS OF CASE BUT WE LEARNED INDIRECTLY HE UNABLE MAKE TRANSPORTATION CONNECTIONS TO KEEP APPOINTMENT WITH PRESIDENT IN IVORY COAST.

6. JUST AS THIS CABLE BEING DISPATCHED TOM WOOD CALLED TO SAY HE WILL NOT RPT NOT BE IN NAIROBI BUT LOOKS FORWARD SEEING GREGG IN LUSAKA IF HE COMES. SAID OUTLOOK FAVORABLE FOR SOME SETTLEMENT WITHIN 3-4 DAYS. HE "DEFINITELY" AGREED WITH EMBASSY CONCLUSION THAT OFFICIAL CONSULTATIONS BETWEEN OPIC REPS AND GRZ NEITHER INDICATED NOR ADVISABLE AT THIS TIME.
WILKOWSKI

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